



Wildflower Exploration

YOUR MISSION

To learn about the native wildflower **SKUNK CABBAGE**.

Plants often have lots of common names. Scientists give each plant one unique scientific name to be sure everyone is talking about the same plant. The scientific name for SKUNK CABBAGE is *Symplocarpus foetidus*.

YOUR CLUES

Where to find it (habitat): Skunk Cabbage grows in wet woodlands.

What the flowers look like: Peek inside the special hood-like leaf, called a spathe, to see the tiny flowers. They don't have petals or sepals, just stamens and pistils.

What the leaves look like: Skunk Cabbage has large leaves that look like cabbage leaves.

What you might find in spring: This is the first native wildflower to bloom! Look for the purplish hood-like spathe and for tight rolls of green leaves that are beginning to unfold.

Interesting facts: This plant uses food stored underground to make heat. This heat can melt snow around the base of the spathe. Skunk Cabbage flowers smell bad and attract pollinators that are drawn to the rotting smell. This wildflower has a perennial life cycle storing food underground in its rhizome and roots.

YOUR NOTES

List two facts below that you want to share about your plant.

Fact #1. I learned... _____

Fact #2. I learned... _____

Detectives learn by asking questions. Write one question below you would like to discover about your plant.

Something I would like to discover about my plant is _____

You can email your question to our youth educator, Raylene Ludgate at RGL3@cornell.edu

Use a wildflower field guide to answer the question below. In the index of the book, look up your plant under its name Cabbage, Skunk.

What family does Skunk Cabbage belong to? Circle the correct answer:

Cattail Family

Arum Family

Using the picture on our website or in wildflower guide, draw a picture of your plant below:

